Appln. No. 09/820,339 Amd. dated May 27, 2004 Reply to Office Action of October 14, 2003

REMARKS

This amendment supplements the amendment after final filed February 5, 2004, on which applicants continue to primarily rely. The Advisory Action dated April 7, 2004, has been reviewed.

A certified copy of the Israeli priority application 120792 filed May 7, 1997, is being separately submitted with a Request for Priority filed on evendate herewith.

Contrary to the examiner's position, it is submitted that after a final action, a petition may be filed anytime before an appeal is filed. As an appeal has not been filed and applicants have requested continued examination by the filing of an RCE, applicants' response is complete. Applicants repeat their request for reconsideration in the amendment after final of February 5, 2004, and continue to do so. Applicants also continue to reserve their right to file a petition for reconsideration of the restriction requirement as 37 CFR §1.144 permits deferral of a petition until after a final action but before an appeal is filed.

The remaining issues noted by the examiner in the Advisory Action are made moot by the amendments to the claims.

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Reconsideration and allowance are hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

BROWDY AND NEIMARK, P.L.L.C. Attorneys for Applicant(s)

Allen C. You

Registration No. 37,971

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I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

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Telephone No.: (202) 628-5197
Facsimile No.: (202) 737-3528
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